

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 05145 261421Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 AID-05 DHA-05 TRSE-00
OMB-01 /100 W

-----070901 262250Z /65

R 261157Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5390
INFO AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 5145

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT ET
SUBJECT: MORE ON AESO DEFECTIONS

REF: ADDIS ABABA 5091

1. RUMORS RELATED TO LAST WEEKEND'S FLIGHT BY TOP ALL
1. ETHIOPIAN SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION OFFICIALS ARE RIFE IN
ADDIS. ONE AMERICAN IBRD OFFICIAL RESIDENT IN NEKEMTE,
CAPITAL OF WOLLEGA, HAS FIRST HAND REPORT THAT LOCAL
WOLLEGA PROVISIONAL OFFICE FOR MASS ORGANIZATIONAL
AFFAIRS (POMOA) CADRE HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY POLITICIZING
AND ARMING THEIR OWN GROUP IN REGION FOR SOME TIME,
AMOUNTING TO SOME 1000 MEN. ACCORDING TO HIM. MEETING
OF CADRE TOOK PLACE ABOUT 10 DAYS AGO IN ARJO SOUTH OF
NEKEMTE, AT WHICH TIME DECISION WAS MADE TO GO UNDER-
GROUND AND ESTABLISH CENTER FOR OPPOSITION IN DIDESA
RIVER VALLEY. BEFORE LEAVING NEKEMTE, ONE POMOA OFFI-
CIAL WAS OBSERVED WITHDRAWING 140,000 BIRR FROM LOCAL
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BANK. AS OF AUG. 24, WOLLEGA DIRG REPS WERE COMMANDEER-
ING VEHICLES FROM IBRD AND ELSEWHERE WITH VIEW TO
INITIATING MILITARY ACTION AGAINST POMOA GUERRILLAS.

2. SAME SOURCE, DURING RADIO CONVERSATION WITH HIS
STAFF IN NEKEMTE MORNING AUG. 25, WAS INFORMED THAT
EPMG FORCES HAD LOCATED AND SURROUNDED HAILE FIDA IN

CITY AND WERE IN PROCESS OF TRYING TO CAPTURE HIM.
ANOTHER SOURCE BELIEVES THAT THOSE WHO FLED ADDIS
WERE ALSO APPREHENDED IN WOLLEGA REGION AUG. 25.

3. FOR MOMENT, EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE,
BUT IMPACT OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, IF TRUE, COULD PROVE
TO BE SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH THAT WE ARE REPORTING THEM
ANYWAY.

4. MEANWHILE, AS RESULT OF CUMULATIVE EVENTS, E.G.,
WAR NEWS, DEFECTION OF AESO MEMBERS, INCREASED ARMING
OF KEBELES, AND FEAR THAT ASSAB MAY BE CUT OFF, LEVEL
OF APPREHENSION, PARTICULARLY AMONG SOME MEMBERS OF
FOREIGN COMMUNITY, THAT SOMETHING BAD MUST BE COMING,
HAS RISEN A NOTHC. AT SAME TIME, AS SO OFTEN HAPPENS
IN ADDIS, LEVEL OF NIGHT FIRING HAS AGAIN DECREASED
SOMEWHAT TO OCCASIONAL SINGLE SHOTS. GASOLINE IS
ONCE AGAIN AVAILABLE (AS OF AUG. 25) FOR PRIVATE
VEHICLES IF ONE HAS TIME TO WAIT IN LONG LINES. CITY
ITSELF REMAINS PERFECTLY CALM, WITH NO EVIDENCE OF
INCREASED SECURITY AT ALL. IF DIRG IS WORRIED ABOUT
POSSIBLE IMPACT IN CITY OF AESO DEPARTURES, IT IS NOT
APPARENT ON SURFACE. INDEED, WE HAVE HEARD MORE THAN
ONE ETHIOPIAN REFERENCE TO HAILE FIDA'S SO-CALLED
"HIT LIST", WHICH STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT AMONG SOME
ETHIOPIANS, HIS DEPARTURE WILL NOT BE MISSED.
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Message Attributes

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